

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY IO:ROBLAKE:VGS

APPROVED BY IO:ROBLAKE

NEA/MR. KORN

SY/MR. BENNINGTON

S/S - MR.EALUM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 247737

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:UN, PFOR, PLO, XE

SUBJECT: PLO DELEGATION TO GA DEBATE

REF: BEIRUT'S 13357

1. IN ACCORD WITH RECOMMENDATION REFTEL, DEPARTMENT TODAY ISSUING AUTHORIZATION VISAS FOR 14 MEMBERS PLO INFO DELEGATION; EMBASSY BEIRUT SHOULD SO INFORM PLO OFFICE IN BEIRUT AND AS PER PARA 5 REFTEL URGE HOUT TO MAKE ADDITIONAL CUTS IN DELEGATION PRIOR TO DELEGATION'S DEPARTURE. HASSAN HAS BEEN URGED BY USUN TO KEEP NUMBER IN INFO DELEGATION TO 10 WHICH HE SAID HE COMMUNICATED TO BEIRUT IMMEDIATELY.

2. RE PARA 3 REFTEL, EMBASSY BEIRUT SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR USG HAS NOT NOW AND NEVER HAS INSISTED THAT ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO PLO OFFICIAL AND INFO DELEGATIONS HAD TO AWAIT FINAL ARRANGEMENTS OF ARAFAT'S PARTY. IN FACT, AS PARA 5
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STATE'S 247648 INDICATED, WE ARE CONTINUING TO AUTHORIZE

VISAS TO 9 MEMBERS OFFICIAL DELEGATION. NOW ONLY JAMAL AL SOURANI HAS NOT REQUESTED VISAS SO FAR AS DEPARTMENT'S RECORDS SHOW. THE OTHER EIGHT VISAS ALREADY AUTHORIZED.

3. IN FACT, HOWEVER, PRINCIPAL AND MOST SERIOUS SECURITY PROBLEM USG FACES NOW RE VISIT OF PLO DELEGATION IS LACK OF ANY KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ARAFAT'S PLANS. REFTEL UNDERLINES COMPLETE SECRECY WITH WHICH THIS MATTER IS BEING HANDLED AS DOES USUN'S 4872. THEREFORE, EMBASSY CAIRO IS INSTRUCTED CONTACT GOE AT APPROPRIATE HIGH LEVEL SOONEST AND URGE THAT USG BE GIVEN FULL INFORMATION NOW ABOUT NAMES OF PERSONS WHO WILL BE IN ARAFAT'S IMMEDIATE PARTY (WE HOPE THIS PARTY WILL BE KEPT TO SMALLEST POSSIBLE NUMBER, I.E., 2 OR 3) PLUS TIME AND PLACE OF ARRIVAL AND, IF POSSIBLE, HIS EXPECTED LENGTH OF STAY. WE ALSO ANXIOUS TO KNOW WHETHER ARAFAT AND HIS PARTY INTEND TO BE HOUSED IN NEW YORK WITH REST OF PLO DELEGATION. SECURITY PROBLEMS WITH ARAFAT'S VISIT ARE VERY SERIOUS, AND DETAILED PLANNING FOR HIS VISIT MUST BE UNDERTAKEN SOONEST.

4. IN THAT REGARD, DEPARTMENT STILL HAS NO INDICATION ABOUT WHO WILL CONSTITUTE ADVANCE SECURITY PARTY TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ARAFAT PARTY'S ARRIVAL OR WHEN THEY HOPE TO ARRIVE NEW YORK. THEIR PRESENCE IS REQUIRED IN NEW YORK SOONEST, AND EMBASSY CAIRO SHOULD INSIST ON THIS POINT.

5. EMBASSY BEIRUT AND USUN MAY DRAW UPON FOREGOING AS APPROPRIATE IN THEIR CONTACTS WITH WORKING LEVEL IN PLO OFFICES.

6. HAVE JUST SEEN BEIRUT 13384. SINCE ARAFAT IS IN BEIRUT TODAY, EMBASSY BEIRUT SHOULD ALSO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO GET INFO REQUESTED IN PARA 3 ABOVE. MAW

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 09 NOV 1974
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